

## **PACU/IR COLLABORATION**

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**Background:** Due to inconsistent IR/PACU hand-off processes, unclear understanding by IR of reasons for PACU holds, frequent inability of PACU to see IR electronic order sets, lack of IR related supplies stocked in PACU, and IR related education needs by PACU nurses, communication and collaboration suffered.

**Objectives:** IR and PACU RNs partnered to form a collaboration committee in order to help improve cohesive function between PACU and IR by addressing flow, communication and education issues.

**Implementation:** CNS, NP and RN members from both units met on a bimonthly basis. Brainstorming occurred to identifying what were the issues. Strategies were formulated to resolve the issues.

**Successful Practice:** Staff from both units have established an open line of communication. Both PACU and IR have gained an increased understanding of each others roles and processes. Hand off to PACU has been streamlined. Understanding of PACU holds has increased in IR. Electronic order sets are more reliably available when patient arrives in PACU. IR supplies have been stocked in PACU and an IR education initiative has started in PACU including access to IR's educational website of procedures.

**Implications for advancing practice:** As volume of IR patients increases in PACUs due to technological advances, PACUs and IRs must partner together to provide cohesive, seamless, and optimal patient care. Establishment of a strong collaboration committee has had a positive impact on both teams.